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HOUSE MEMORIAL 23

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Elias Barela

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE RICH HISTORY, CURRENT ASSETS AND PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO'S HOUSE DISTRICT 8 AND DECLARING JANUARY 28, 2010 "HOUSE DISTRICT 8 DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, House District 8 is located entirely within Valencia county, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, it includes such villages, towns and communities as Belen, Los Lunas, Bacaville, Pueblitos, Los Chavez and Los Lentos and many other historically significant, peaceful, friendly and beautiful places; and

WHEREAS, Valencia county is part of the Rio Abajo, an area of the middle Rio Grande valley that was settled as early as 1598 by the Spaniards; and

WHEREAS, the village of Los Lunas, the Valencia county seat and part of House District 8, was founded by the Spaniards

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1 in the seventeenth century, and it maintains a strong tri-  
2 cultural heritage to this day; and

3 WHEREAS, the House District 8 city of Belen was  
4 established over two hundred sixty-five years ago as a peaceful  
5 village on the west bank of the Rio Grande, and it became  
6 incorporated as a town in 1940 and as a city in 1965; and

7 WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico-Valencia campus is  
8 located near House District 8, in Tome, New Mexico, halfway  
9 between Belen and Los Lunas, and the campus has served the  
10 educational needs of the area since 1978; and

11 WHEREAS, in 2002, House District 8 had a total population  
12 of twenty-six thousand two hundred fourteen residents, and the  
13 district currently comprises close to forty percent of the  
14 population of Valencia county; and

15 WHEREAS, the population of the district and the county in  
16 which it is located has risen dramatically in recent years, and  
17 the area continues to attract new residents who are looking for  
18 a place where the pace is a little slower, the crime rate is  
19 low, neighbors know neighbors and opportunities abound; and

20 WHEREAS, the area now designated as House District 8 has  
21 been represented by such illustrious former members as Miguel  
22 E. Baca, who served in 1912, immediately following New Mexico's  
23 statehood; Jesus C. Sanchez, who was a member of the  
24 territorial house of representatives in 1909, prior to New  
25 Mexico's statehood; Ron Gentry, who served as majority floor

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1 leader during his tenure; and Fred S. Luna, who served with  
2 distinction for thirty-five years, and who was the chair of the  
3 house business and industry committee for nineteen years; and

4 WHEREAS, the quality of life is high in House District 8,  
5 a place characterized by a strong sense of community enhanced  
6 by a rural lifestyle, friendly people, terrific weather and a  
7 welcoming attitude, making it a wonderful place to live and to  
8 visit;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
10 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the rich  
11 history, current assets and people of New Mexico's House  
12 District 8 be recognized and honored, and that January 28, 2010  
13 be declared "House District 8 Day" in the house of  
14 representatives; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
16 transmitted to the county commissioners of Valencia county and  
17 the mayors of the incorporated municipalities of Los Lunas and  
18 Belen.

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